

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-9 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1, 5 and 9 being independent. Claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-3 and 5 have been amended and Claims 6-9 have been added herein.

The drawings were objected to for allegedly not including reference characters mentioned in the specification and including reference characters not mentioned in the specification. Applicants are amending the specification and will present those changes in a supplemental paper to obviate the drawing objections.

The specification was objected to for a minor informality. All misspellings and any other informalities noted in the review of the specification are being corrected in the supplemental paper. Favorable consideration is requested.

The title has been amended as requested by the Examiner. Favorable consideration is requested.

Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,580,444 (Drynkin et al.). Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 were rejected under § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0067940 (Sasai et al.). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Sasai et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,317,145 (Myung). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As is recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to a printing apparatus for printing on a print medium with a print head. The apparatus includes a tray on which to place the print medium, a tray guide removably mounted to the printing apparatus to support the tray so that the tray can be fed, a detecting portion for detecting whether or not the tray guide is mounted to the printing apparatus, a carriage that moves with the print head mounted thereon, and control means for limiting movement of the carriage when the detecting portion detects that the tray guide is mounted to the printing apparatus.

As is recited in independent Claim 5, the present invention relates to a printing method for printing on a print medium with a print head. The method includes the steps of removably mounting to a printing apparatus a tray guide that supports a tray on which the print medium is placed so that the tray can be fed, detecting whether or not the tray guide is mounted to the printing apparatus by a detecting portion, and limiting the movement of the carriage which carries the print head when the detecting portion detects that the tray guide is mounted to the printing apparatus.

As is recited in independent Claim 9, the present invention relates to a printing apparatus for printing on a print medium with a print head. The apparatus includes a tray on which to place the print medium, a tray guide removably mounted to the printing apparatus to support the tray so that the tray can be fed, a detecting portion for detecting whether or not the tray guide is mounted to the printing apparatus, and an auto-feeder for feeding a sheet material to the print head. The tray guide feeds the tray when the detecting portion detects that the tray guide is mounted to the printing apparatus, and the auto-feeder

feeds the sheet material when the detecting portion detects that no tray guide is mounted to the printing apparatus.

With the above arrangements and method, the print head will not stain the tray or the print medium placed on the tray.

Drynkin et al. relates to a thermal printer for CDs 20 and other media. A media holding tray 22 is used hold the CD during printing. Tray 22 is removable and replaceable and is retained by two spaced guide shafts 86, 88, which include small plastic contact rollers 90. A photo-sensor 152 can detect a flag 150 when the tray 22 is extended for receipt of or removal of a media item. A controller 11 coordinates electronic and mechanical operations in automated printing of a media item.

Sasai et al. is directed to a recording apparatus having a tray for transferring recording media. Tray 101 can be inserted to a sheet feeder passage when rollers are separated. An optical sensor can detect the tray.

However, neither Drynkin et al. nor Sasai et al. is believed to disclose or suggest a tray guide that is removably mounted to the printing apparatus to support the tray. That is, neither the guide shafts in Drynkin et al. nor the rollers for receiving the tray in Sasai et al. are believed to be removably mounted to the printing apparatus, as is recited in independent Claims 1, 5 and 9. Moreover, neither Drynkin et al. nor Sasai et al. are believed to disclose or suggest limiting movement of the carriage when it is detected that the tray guide is mounted, as is recited in independent Claims 1 and 5. Further, the citations are not believed to disclose or suggest a tray guide feeding the tray when detected that the tray guide is mounted to the printing apparatus, and an auto-feeder feeding sheet

material when detected that no tray guide is mounted to the apparatus, as is recited in independent Claim 9.

Thus, Drynkin et al. and Sasai et al. fail to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Myung relates to controlling a carriage in an ink jet printing apparatus and describes moving a carriage to the center of a printing area or to the outside of the printing area depending on whether there is paper in the printing area. However, Myung does not disclose or suggest a feeding tray and is not believed to remedy the deficiencies of the citations noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Thus, independent Claims 1, 5 and 9 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 5 and 9. Dependent Claims 2, 3 and 6-8 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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